

A Summary of

Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Effective March 1, 2026



Conservation Department Offices

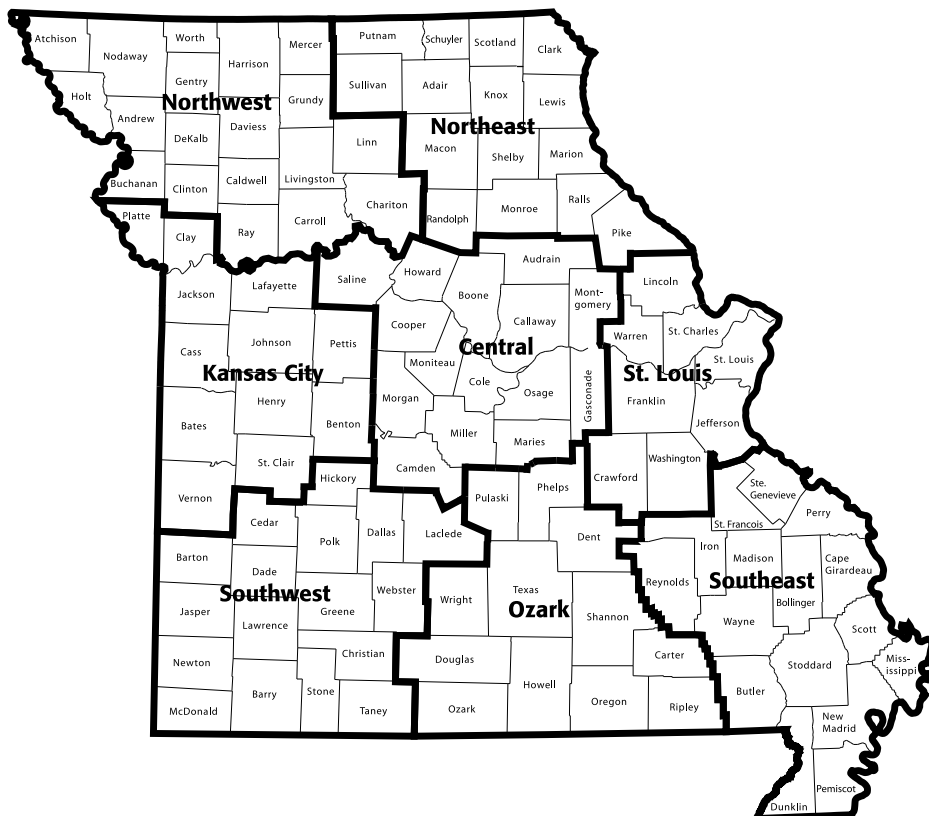


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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554



To report poaching or game-law violations, call

Operation Game Thief

800-392-1111

**Rewards are available for information
 leading to the arrest of game-law violators.
 You can remain anonymous.**

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In Your Hands

The information in this booklet is only a summary of the hunting and trapping rules. It is **NOT** a legal document and is subject to revision during the current year. For complete rules, refer to the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* or the *Missouri Code of State Regulations* at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.

What's New for 2026?

- Permit prices have increased to keep up with the rising costs of goods and services. See pages 8–11.
- The price for an Apprentice Hunter Authorization has increased. See Page 5.
- A new nonresident permit for migratory bird hunting was established. See Page 9.
- The dates have been extended for using artificial lights and night vision equipment to hunt coyotes. See Page 14.
- Hunters who use a Nonresident Spring Turkey Hunting Permit (both youth and adults) may now take only one turkey. Hunters using any other valid turkey permit (including a Nonresident Landowner Spring Turkey Hunting Permit) may still take two turkeys. See the *2026 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available at permit vendors, MDC offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.
- Youth hunters who harvest a turkey during youth season and are eligible to take a second bird may now hunt during the first week of the regular spring turkey season. See the *2026 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available at permit vendors, MDC offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at short.mdc.mo.gov/Zg5.

Permits — General Information

Anyone who hunts or traps must carry the appropriate hunting or trapping permits in either paper, plastic, or electronic format, or qualify for an exemption.

Permit Exemptions

Missouri resident landowners and any member of their immediate households whose legal residence is the same as the landowner for at least the last 30 days, may hunt — except black bears, deer, elk, or turkeys — or trap on lands they own without a permit, except:

- A Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required to hunt waterfowl, snipe, doves, woodcock, and rails.
- A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.
- A Conservation Order Permit is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

While hunting on their own land, hunters must comply with appropriate seasons, methods, limits, and checking requirements.

Any Missouri resident age 65 or older may hunt (but not trap) wildlife — except black bears, deer, elk, or turkeys — without a permit but must carry proof of age and residence when hunting, except:

- A Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required to hunt waterfowl, snipe, doves, woodcock, and rails.
- A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.
- A Conservation Order Permit is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Any Missouri resident age 15 or younger may trap without a permit. Anyone age 15 or younger may hunt wildlife — except black bears, deer, elk, or turkeys — without a permit:

- **IF** they possess a valid hunter-education card;
- **OR** they are in the immediate presence of a mentor age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Any honorably discharged resident or nonresident veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater or who was a prisoner of war during military service may hunt (but not trap) wildlife — except black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys — without a permit but must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center may hunt (but not trap) wildlife — except black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys — without a permit but must carry orders showing such assignment. However:

- A Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required to hunt waterfowl, snipe, doves, woodcock, and rails.
- A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.
- A Conservation Order Permit is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Note: Nonresident veterans who meet the above requirements also can purchase resident deer and turkey hunting permits.

Hunter-Education Requirements

You must complete an approved hunter-education course in Missouri or another state to buy firearms hunting permits unless:

- You were born before Jan. 1, 1967.
- You are 6–15 years old and using a firearms deer or turkey hunting permit while hunting in the immediate presence of a mentor.
- You are using a resident landowner deer or turkey hunting permit on qualifying property.
- You are using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization. See Page 5.
- You have a developmental disability. See Rule 3 CSR 10-5.205 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

All hunters, unless exempt, must carry their hunter-education card or a permit with their hunter-education number on it while hunting with a firearm. The Missouri Conservation Heritage Card or Conservation Permit Card with a hunter-education number on it is also acceptable.

A hunter-education card need not be displayed when buying permits if certification can be verified online. If this is not possible, some hunters will need to contact the Conservation Department to provide proof of hunter-education certification. Once in Missouri's permit database, hunters won't have to submit this information again.

Two Ways to Earn Hunter-Education Certification

You have two options to complete hunter-education certification. **Note:** You must be at least 11 years old to enroll in hunter education in Missouri.

The first option, available to hunters 11 or older, has two parts, and you must complete both sessions to receive certification. The first part can be completed in the classroom, through self-study, or online. Once you've completed this part, you must complete an in-person skills session that includes hands-on demonstrations and a final exam.

The second option, available to Missouri residents 16 or older, is completed entirely online. To earn certification, you must score 80 percent or better on the 60-question final exam. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation.

Attention Mentors

When mentoring a firearms hunter who is not hunter-education certified, all mentors, including landowners hunting on their own land, must be at least 18 years old and hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Mentors who are assisting youth hunters do not need a permit during the youth spring turkey season, the youth portions of firearms deer season, or to accompany anyone age 11 to 15 on a black bear or elk hunt. At all other times, mentors must possess a valid hunting permit for the appropriate season or be exempt. In the case of deer and turkey permits, the mentor's permit can be filled or unfilled.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

To help introduce adults to hunting, the Conservation Department allows hunters age 16 or older who are not hunter-education certified to hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- Purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization for \$12.50;
- Purchase a hunting permit for the season in which they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed mentor age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows people who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits throughout the permit year. You may not use an Apprentice Hunter Authorization to purchase black bear or elk hunting permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Permit Obligations

Accepting a permit means that you:

- Agree to observe the rules of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.
- Will allow an agent of the Conservation Department to inspect your picture ID, permit, game taken, and your hunting or trapping equipment.
- Will hunt and/or trap wildlife in a safe manner.
- Will not loan your permit to another.
- Will carry your permit in either paper, department-issued plastic, or electronic format while hunting or trapping. If you purchased your permit by telephone and have not yet received it, you must carry the permit authorization number and picture identification with you while small game hunting or trapping until your permit arrives. To hunt black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys, you must have either a paper permit or a permit on the MO Hunting app in your possession, and to hunt waterfowl, you must have a Federal Duck Stamp in your possession.

Note: The Conservation Commission may suspend, revoke, or deny a permit or privilege for cause or for injuring another person while hunting.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
 - Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
 - All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change of station status and immediate family members residing with them.
 - Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting and purchasing permits.
 - Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting and purchasing permits.
 - Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting.
- Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them in person, over the phone, or through the mail from Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Note: You must meet the qualifications listed in the first or second bullet points above to apply for and purchase black bear and elk hunting permits.

Sharpen Your Shooting Skills

Regardless of your skill level, you can become a safer, more accurate shooter by practicing at a shooting range before hunting season. The Conservation Department offers five fully staffed shooting ranges and many unstaffed ranges. To find one, aim your internet browser at mdc.mo.gov/shootingranges.

Purchasing Permits

Purchasing Permits

You may purchase hunting and trapping permits using any of these methods:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime at **mdc.mo.gov/buypermits**. Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Print your permit and have it in hand immediately or use the free MO Hunting app (see box on this page). Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Federal and state statutes require buyers of hunting, fishing, and trapping permits to provide their Social Security number. This requirement also applies to no-cost landowner permits. Individuals who do not have a Social Security number will be required to affirm that information. Falsifying a Social Security number may result in revocation of privileges or criminal charges. Social Security numbers are securely stored and used in support of the Missouri Department of Social Service's child support enforcement.

The Conservation Permit Card allows multiple permits to be carried on a single plastic card (except black bear, deer, elk, and turkey permits, the Federal Duck Stamp, Daily Trout Tags, the White River Border Lakes Permit, and reciprocal privileges with other states). As new permits are purchased, they will be loaded automatically onto the card.

Both the Conservation Permit Card and Heritage Card serve as proof of hunter-education certification when printed with a hunter-education certification number.

The Conservation Permit Card will gradually replace existing Heritage Cards. Those with a current Heritage Card may purchase a Conservation Permit Card for \$5 if they want to carry their permits in card format. Lost Heritage Cards will also be replaced with the Conservation Permit Card for a \$5 fee.

Note: The Heritage Card is not a permit.

Replacing Permits

If you lose your permit, simply download the MO Hunting app to your Android or Apple mobile device, log in with your date of birth and Conservation Number, and a valid, electronic version of your permit will appear on the app. Your Conservation Number is nine digits long and can be found on the Heritage Card, Conservation Permit Card, or any current or previous permit. Any active, valid permit can be reprinted from home at **mdc.mo.gov/buypermits**. Replacement permits can be purchased from any vendor for \$3.

Go Mobile with Free MO Hunting App

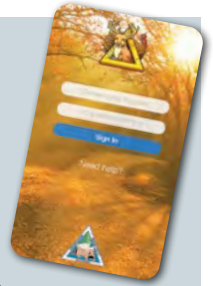
The Conservation Department's free MO Hunting app offers a quick, easy, and convenient option for buying and carrying permits. The app, which is available for Android and Apple mobile devices, allows you to:

- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield.
- Electronically “notch” (void) your black bear, deer, elk, and turkey permits.
- Telecheck your black bear, deer, elk, or turkey, using an easy-to-fill form. Telecheck will upload a confirmation number to the app.

To log in to MO Hunting, you'll need your date of birth and Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on your Heritage Card, Conservation Permit Card, or any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-522-0107 during regular business hours or go to **short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkH**.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and Apple App stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at **short.mdc.mo.gov/Zi2**.

Important! Make sure you update MO Hunting before each hunting season to ensure you are using the most recent version of the app and that all of your permits are visible while hunting.



Your purchase of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment helps fund the restoration and management of wildlife, public use of wildlife resources, and hunter education.



Hunting and Trapping Permits

To chase, pursue, take, possess, and transport wildlife and to sell furbearers taken by hunting or trapping you will need, unless otherwise exempted, one or more of the following permits. **Unless noted otherwise, permits are valid from the date of purchase through the last day of February 2027.**

Resident Permits

Resident Small Game Hunting Permit..... \$11.50

For frogs, birds (except turkeys), mammals (except bears, deer, and elk), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.^{1,2,3}

Resident Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit.. \$22.50

For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds (except turkeys), mammals (except bears, deer, and elk), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.^{1,2,3}

Resident National Guard and Reserve Service Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit\$5.50

Allows Missouri residents who are mobilized (or have been in the previous 12 months) and are serving on full-time active military duty in the National Guard (federal status) or reserve forces of the United States to take fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds (except turkeys), mammals (except bears, deer, and elk), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.^{1,2,3}

This permit cannot be purchased at vendors, by telephone, or online. **To apply:**

- Go online at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJ9.
- Call 573-522-0107.
- Write to National Guard Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Resident Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit

For any deer statewide.

Age 16 or older..... \$19.50
Age 6–15⁴.....\$9.75

Resident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit

For antlerless deer in open counties.

Age 16 or older.....\$7.50
Age 6–15⁴.....\$3.75

Resident Managed Deer Hunting Permit

For deer taken during a managed hunt.

Age 16 or older..... \$19.50
Age 11–15⁴.....\$9.75

Resident Archer's Hunting Permit

For deer and small game during the prescribed seasons, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.

Age 16 or older..... \$22
Age 6–15..... \$11

Resident Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit

For antlerless deer during the archery deer hunting season.

Age 16 or older.....\$7.50
Age 6–15.....\$3.75

Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit \$50

For one antlered elk during the elk hunting season.⁵

Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit \$50

For one antlerless elk during the elk hunting season.⁵

Resident Black Bear Hunting Permit \$25

For one black bear during the black bear hunting season.⁵

Resident Turkey Hunting Permits

Spring season (regular and youth)

For two bearded turkeys

Age 16 or older..... \$19.50
Age 6–15⁴.....\$9.75

Fall season (archery and firearms portions)

For two turkeys total (any sex)

Age 16 or older..... \$15
Age 6–15⁴.....\$7.50

Resident Trapping Permit \$12

For trapping furbearers and rabbits, and to sell all of these except rabbits. Valid until June 30, 2027.

Resident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit\$8

For waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock, and rails. Must also have a hunting permit that allows taking birds, unless exempt. Required of all residents, including landowners, who are 16 years of age or older. Valid until June 30, 2027.^{1,3}

Resident Conservation Order Permit.....\$5.50

To pursue, take, possess, and transport snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. Required of all residents, including landowners, who are 16 years of age or older. This is the only permit needed to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

¹ A Federal Duck Stamp is also required to hunt waterfowl.

² A Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is also required to hunt waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock, and rails.

³ A Conservation Order Permit is required to hunt snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order.

⁴ If not hunter-education certified, a youth hunting on a firearms permit must be in the immediate presence of a mentor age 18 or older who is hunter-education certified or born before Jan. 1, 1967. See permit rules for mentors on Page 5.

⁵ Elk and bear hunting permits are allocated through random drawings. There is a \$10 nonrefundable fee to apply to each drawing. For additional information — including season dates, quotas, and regulations — see the *Elk Hunting Digest* and *Black Bear Hunting Digest*, which are available online in May at mdc.mo.gov.

Permits For Both Residents and Nonresidents

Licensed Hunting Preserve Hunting Permit \$13.50

For pheasants, exotic partridges, quail, and hoofed animals from a licensed hunting preserve. Available only at licensed hunting preserves.

Three-Day Licensed Hunting Preserve Hunting Permit.....\$6.50

Same as Licensed Hunting Preserve Hunting Permit, but good for three consecutive days only. Available only at licensed hunting preserves.

Nonresident Permits

Daily Small Game Hunting Permit \$16

For frogs, birds (except turkeys), mammals (except bears, deer, elk, and furbearers), and to chase furbearers for training dogs during the closed season. May be purchased for multiple days.^{1,2,3}

Nonresident Small Game Hunting Permit \$108.50

For frogs, birds (except turkeys), mammals (except bears, deer, elk, and furbearers), and to chase furbearers for training dogs during the closed season.^{1,2,3}

Nonresident Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit

For any deer statewide.

Age 16 or older..... \$360
Age 6–15⁴.....\$9.75

Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit

For antlerless deer during the firearms deer hunting season in open counties. A Nonresident Firearms Any-Deer, Nonresident Managed Deer Hunting Permit, or Nonresident Landowner Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit is a prerequisite.

Age 16 or older..... \$34
Age 6–15⁴.....\$3.75

Nonresident Managed Deer Hunting Permit

For deer taken during a managed hunt.

Age 16 or older..... \$360
Age 11–15⁴.....\$9.75

Nonresident Archer's Hunting Permit

For deer and small game (except furbearers) during the prescribed seasons.

Age 16 or older..... \$360
Age 6–15..... \$11

Migratory Bird Hunting Permits

These permits are required of all residents and nonresidents (including landowners), 16 years of age or older:

For doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe

- Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- A permit to hunt small game, unless exempt*

For ducks, geese, and coots

- Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- A permit to hunt small game, unless exempt*
- Federal Duck Stamp

For light geese during the Conservation Order

- Conservation Order Permit

*See Page 4 for exemptions.

Nonresident Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit

For antlerless deer during archery deer hunting season.

A Nonresident Archer's Hunting Permit or Nonresident Landowner Archer's Hunting Permit is a prerequisite.

Age 16 or older..... \$34
Age 6–15.....\$3.75

Nonresident Turkey Hunting Permits

Spring season (regular and youth)

For one bearded turkey

Age 16 or older..... \$304.50
Age 6–15⁴.....\$9.75

Fall season (archery and firearms portions)

For two turkeys total (any sex)

Age 16 or older..... \$176.50
Age 6–15⁴.....\$7.50

Nonresident Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Permit..... \$221.50

For furbearers. Valid until June 30, 2027.

Nonresident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit..... \$60

For waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock, and rails. Must also have a hunting permit that allows taking birds, unless exempt. Required of all nonresidents, including landowners, who are 16 years of age or older. Valid until June 30, 2027.^{1,3}

Nonresident Conservation Order Permit \$54

To pursue, take, possess, and transport snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. Required of all nonresidents 16 years of age or older. This is the only permit needed to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Landowner Deer and Turkey Permits

All hunters, including landowners, must have a valid permit to hunt black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys. Resident landowners who meet certain criteria (see below) may get no-cost resident landowner permits for deer and turkeys. Nonresident landowners who meet certain criteria (see below) may get reduced-cost nonresident landowner permits for deer and turkeys.

No-Cost Resident Landowner Permits

To qualify for no-cost resident landowner permits, you must be a Missouri resident. A Missouri resident is a person who does not claim any resident privileges (for example, hunting, fishing, trapping, driver's license, or registered voter) in another state or country and whose legal residence or domicile has been in the state of Missouri for at least 30 days prior to obtaining a landowner permit.

In addition to being a Missouri resident, you also must meet one of the following criteria:

- You must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract.
- You must be a member of the landowner's immediate household and have the same legal residence as the landowner for at least the last 30 days.
- You must be a general partner of a resident or foreign limited liability partnership, limited partnership, or limited liability limited partnership, or a general partner of a general partnership formed by written agreement and the partnership must own at least 20 contiguous acres.
- You must be an officer of a resident or foreign corporation and the corporation must own at least 20 contiguous acres.
- You must be a managing member of a resident or foreign limited liability company and the company must own at least 20 contiguous acres.
- You must be an officer of a benevolent association organized pursuant to Chapter 352 of the *Revised Statutes of Missouri* and the association must own at least 20 contiguous acres.
- You must be a settlor of a revocable trust that holds at least 20 contiguous acres.
- You must be a permissible distributee of an irrevocable trust that holds at least 20 contiguous acres.

Reduced-Cost Nonresident Landowner Permits

The Conservation Department offers reduced-cost nonresident landowner permits. To qualify, you must own at least 75 acres of land in one contiguous tract in Missouri. You also qualify if you are a member of the landowner's immediate household whose legal residence and domicile is the same as the landowner's for at least the last 30 days.

Submit Property Information to Get Landowner Permits

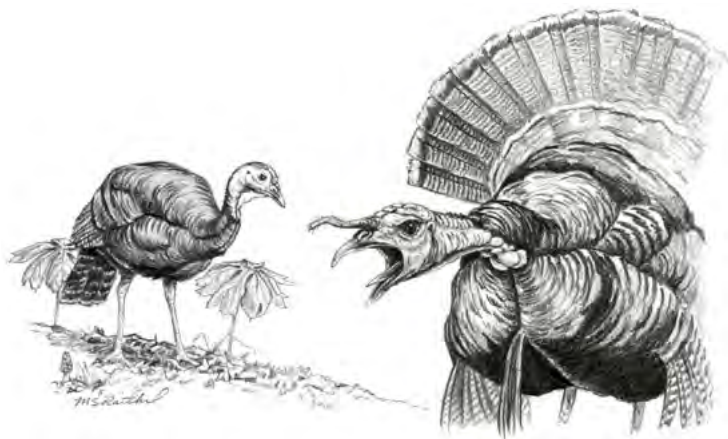
To get no-cost resident landowner permits or reduced-cost nonresident landowner permits, you must submit information about your property to the Conservation Department by filling out a Landowner Permit Application at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits.

Where to Get Landowner Permits

Once your Landowner Permit Application has been accepted, you may get landowner permits using any of the following methods:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately or use the free MO Hunting app (see box on Page 6). Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Whichever method you choose, please be ready to provide your Conservation Number, Social Security number, or driver's license number.



Know the Rules

Hunters who qualify for landowner permits:

- Must abide by season dates, methods, limits, and tagging/checking requirements.
- Must use landowner permits only on their qualifying property. To hunt on other land, landowners must purchase regular permits.
- Must be at least 6 years old to obtain landowner permits.

Resident Landowner Permits

Resident Landowner Spring Turkey

Hunting Permit..... No cost

For two turkeys during spring turkey season.

Resident Landowner Fall Turkey

Hunting Permit..... No cost

For two turkeys during fall turkey season (archery and firearms portions combined).

Resident Landowner Firearms Any-Deer

Hunting Permit..... No cost

For one deer (of either sex) during firearms deer season.

Resident Landowner Firearms Antlerless Deer

Hunting Permit..... No cost

For one antlerless deer during firearms deer season. See the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet for additional criteria regarding this permit.

Resident Landowner Archer's Hunting Permit ... No cost

For two deer during archery deer season, for small game during prescribed seasons, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.

Resident Landowner Archery Antlerless Deer

Hunting Permit..... No cost

For one antlerless deer during archery deer season.

Nonresident Landowner Permits

Nonresident Landowner Spring Turkey

Hunting Permit..... \$190.50

For two turkeys during spring turkey season.

Nonresident Landowner Fall Turkey

Hunting Permit..... \$111

For two turkeys during fall turkey season (archery and firearms portions combined).

Nonresident Landowner Firearms Any-Deer

Hunting Permit..... \$225

For one deer (of either sex) during firearms deer season.

Nonresident Landowner Archer's

Hunting Permit..... \$225

For two deer during archery deer season and for small game, except furbearers, during prescribed seasons.

Lifetime Permits

Lifetime permits are available to Missouri residents only. Proof of residency, such as a photocopy of a valid Missouri driver's license, is required. For children under the age of 18, the parents' residency will be used.

Lifetime permits cannot be purchased at permit vendors, by telephone, or online. You must apply for lifetime permits by filling out a lifetime permit form. Get the form:

- Online at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJ4.
- By calling 573-522-0107.
- By writing to Lifetime Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.
- By email at Lifetime.Permit@mdc.mo.gov.

Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit —

This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Small Game Hunting Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit. Black bear, deer, elk, and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.

Age 15 or younger	\$320
Age 16–29	\$465.50
Age 30–39	\$407
Age 40–59	\$349
Age 60 or older.....	\$40.50

Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit —

This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit, Trout Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit. Black bear, deer, elk, and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.

Age 15 or younger	\$640
Age 16–29	\$930.50
Age 30–39	\$814.50
Age 40–59	\$698
Age 60 or older.....	\$81.50

Resident Lifetime Trapping Permit — This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Trapping Permit.

Age 15 or younger	\$320
Age 16–29	\$465.50
Age 30–39	\$407
Age 40–59	\$349
Age 60 or older.....	\$40.50

General Information

GENERAL INFORMATION



Wanton Waste

It is illegal to intentionally leave or abandon any portion of any wildlife that is commonly used as human food.

Dogs

You may not use dogs or bring them with you while hunting beavers, black bears, deer, elk, mink, muskrats, river otters, and turkeys. However, leashed dogs under direct control of a handler may be used to track and recover wounded black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys. People assisting with tracking do not need hunting permits, provided they are not the person who wounded the game. They may not have in their possession a firearm, bow, or crossbow, except for concealable firearms as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo. Concealable firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife.

Hunting furbearers with dogs during daylight hours is prohibited statewide from Nov. 1 through the close of the November portion of firearms deer season and during the antlerless portions in open counties. Dogs may not be used to hunt squirrels and rabbits during daylight hours of the November portion of firearms deer season in Butler, Carter, Dent, Iron, Madison, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, and Wayne counties.

While hunting, all dogs, except those used by waterfowl and game bird hunters, must wear a collar with the owner's full name and address, Conservation Number, or telephone number. For training dogs, wildlife that can be hunted with dogs may be chased, but not taken. Only a pistol with blank ammunition may be used during daylight hours to train dogs during closed seasons. A hunting permit or exemption is required when training dogs that are chasing wildlife.

Hunting Near Floodwaters or Fire

Wildlife, except waterfowl, may not be pursued or taken while trapped or surrounded by floodwaters or while fleeing from floodwaters or fire. Flood-prone areas in southeast Missouri are closed to all hunting, except for waterfowl, during turkey and deer seasons when river levels exceed certain limits on local river gauges. To see if an area is open or closed for hunting, visit mdc.mo.gov/semofloods.

Conservation Department areas have special hunting and trapping regulations, which can be found online at mdc.mo.gov/atlas.

Legal Firearm Methods

Legal firearm methods used to hunt wildlife — except beavers, mink, muskrats, river otters, turtles, and fish — are:

- Pistols, revolvers, and rifles propelling a single projectile at one discharge.
- Firearms powered by spring, air, or compressed gas (may not be used for hunting game birds except crows).
- Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge with the magazine cut off or plugged to reduce the capacity to not more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. The three-shell restriction does not apply to shotguns used while hunting black bears, deer, and elk, and during the Conservation Order for light geese.

Legal firearm methods used to hunt black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys are listed in the *Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available online and at permit vendors in March; the *Black Bear Hunting Digest* and the *Elk Hunting Digest*, available online in May; and the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available online and at permit vendors in July.

Fully automatic firearms are prohibited for all hunting.

Hunting Game Birds with Firearms

Shotguns are the only firearm allowed for hunting game birds except crows. Pistols, revolvers, rifles, and shotguns may be used to hunt crows.

Baiting

Baiting is not allowed for black bears, deer, elk, migratory birds, and turkeys. An area is considered baited for 10 days following complete removal of bait. For complete baiting regulations, see rules for black bears, deer, elk, migratory birds, and turkeys in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Special Rules for Deer and Elk Seasons

During the firearms portion of elk season in Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties and the November portion of firearms deer season statewide and antlerless portions in open counties, other wildlife may be hunted only with a shotgun and shot not larger than No. 4 or a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle, pistol, or revolver. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters, deer or elk hunters, trappers, or landowners on their land. Other provisions apply to furbearer hunters. See the *Elk Hunting Digest* and the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet.

Bows and Crossbows

Bows (long, compound, and recurve bows) and crossbows may be used to take wildlife during hunting seasons. Arrows containing any drug, poison, chemical, or explosive are prohibited. Illuminated sights, scopes, quickpoint sights, and hand-held string releasing mechanisms may be used.

General Information

Atlatls and Slingshots

Atlatls may be used to take wildlife except black bears. Slingshots may be used to take wildlife except black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys.

Motor Driven Vehicles and Boats

Motor driven conveyances may not be used to take, drive, or molest wildlife. Black bears, deer, and elk may not be hunted from a boat with a motor attached; however, a motor boat may be used to hunt other wildlife if the motor is shut off and the boat's forward progress has stopped. Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) may be used to locate and recover wounded black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys. For details on drone use, see Rule 3 CSR 10-7.410 in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Artificial Lights and Night Vision Equipment

Artificial lights may be used only to hunt bullfrogs and green frogs, to hunt raccoons and other furbearing animals treed by dogs, and to hunt coyotes from Jan. 1–April 19, 2026, and May 11–Sept. 30, 2026. Using lights to search for, harass, or disturb other wildlife is prohibited.

Landowners may use lights on their property, but while doing so may not be in possession of, or be with someone who possesses, a firearm, bow, or other implement used to take wildlife.

You may not possess night vision, infrared, or thermal imagery equipment while carrying a firearm, bow, or other implement used to take wildlife, except:

- Landowners may use night vision, infrared, or thermal imagery equipment on their property to kill feral swine.
- Hunters may use night vision, infrared, or thermal imagery equipment to hunt coyotes from Jan. 1–April 19, 2026, and May 11–Sept. 30, 2026.

Public Roadways

You may not take any wildlife from or across a public roadway with a firearm, bow, or crossbow. A Conibear®-type trap may be used adjacent to public roadways only if set underwater in permanent waters.

Poisons, Tranquilizers, Chemicals, and Explosives

Poisons, tranquilizers, chemicals, or explosives may not be used to take wildlife.

Giving Away Wildlife

You may give wildlife to another person, but it will continue to be part of your daily limit for the day when taken. Black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys must be labeled with your full name, address, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number. All other wildlife must be labeled with your full name, address, permit number, species, and the date taken. Wildlife given as a gift will be included in the possession limit of the person you give it to.

Electronic Calls

Electronic calls or electronically activated calls may not be used or possessed while hunting except to pursue and take crows, furbearers, or light geese during the Conservation Order. Mouth and hand calls may be used at any time.

Wildlife Identification

You must keep wildlife you take separate or identifiable from wildlife taken by other hunters.

Possessing, Transporting, and Storing Wildlife

You can possess and transport wildlife as part of your personal baggage. It may be stored at your home, camp, place of lodging, or in a commercial establishment. If you store wildlife taken in Missouri, it must have the owner's full name and address, or Conservation Number; permit number; species; and the date it was placed in storage. For black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys, also record the Telecheck confirmation number. If you transport wildlife, it must have the full name, address, and permit number of the taker and the date it was taken. To transport black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys, you must also include the Telecheck confirmation number. Commercially processed black bears, deer, and elk must be claimed by the owner by May 1 following the season taken.

Unless federal regulations prohibit, you may buy, sell, or barter feathers; squirrel pelts; rabbit pelts; groundhog pelts; turkey beards, heads, bones, feet, spurs, wings, tails, and skins, including skins with the feathers, wings, and legs attached; and deer and elk heads, antlers, hides, and feet. They must be accompanied by a bill of sale showing the seller's full name, address, and the number and species of the parts, and the full name and address of the buyer. Wildlife and wildlife parts, after mounting or tanning, also may be bought and sold.

People who receive or purchase deer and elk heads or antlers attached to the skull plate must keep the bill of sale as long as the heads or antlers are in their possession. The bill of sale must include the transaction date and a signed statement from the seller(s) attesting that the heads and antlers were taken legally.

Transporting Deer Species into Missouri

Carcasses of caribou, deer, elk, and moose harvested out of state may not be transported into Missouri. Only the following portions may be transported into Missouri:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped or that has been boned out
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- Hides from which all excess tissue has been removed
- Antlers or antlers attached to skull plates or skulls cleaned of all muscle and brain tissue
- Upper canine teeth
- Finished taxidermy products
- Heads with capes attached (must be taken to a licensed taxidermist within 48 hours)

Some Conservation Areas Require Nontoxic Shot

Nontoxic shot is required for hunting doves on 26 conservation areas that have intensive dove hunting. In addition, 46 conservation areas require nontoxic shot for **all** hunting with shotguns. Waterfowl hunters have been required by federal law to use nontoxic shot since 1991. For a list of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, see Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* at ecfr.gov.

Use or possession of lead shot for hunting doves is prohibited on the following conservation areas:

- Bilby Ranch Lake
- Blue Spring Branch
- Bois D'Arc
- Busch (August A.) Memorial
- Capps Creek
- Crowley's Ridge
- Davisdale
- Fort Crowder
- Harmony Mission Lake
- Lamine River
- Logan (William R.)
- Maintz Wildlife Preserve
- Pacific Palisades
- Park (Guy B.)
- Peabody
- Pony Express Lake
- Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area
- Reform
- Shawnee Trail
- Sloan (Dr. O.E. and Eloise)
- Stockton Lake Management Lands
- Talbot (Robert E.)
- Truman Reservoir Management Lands (Bethlehem)
- Weldon Spring
- Whetstone Creek
- White (William G. and Erma Parke)

Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting with a shotgun on the following conservation areas:

- Aspinwall Bend
- Black Island
- Bob Brown
- Cash (Ben) Memorial
- Church Farm
- Columbia Bottom
- Cooley Lake
- Coon Island
- Corning
- Derooin Bend
- Diana Bend
- Donaldson Point
- Duck Creek
- Eagle Bluffs
- Fountain Grove
- Four Rivers
- Franklin Island
- Frisbee Cutoff Access
- Frost Island
- Girvin (John L. And Georgia)
- Grand Pass
- Hornersville Swamp
- Leach (B.K.) Memorial
- Little Bean Marsh
- Little River
- Lower Hamburg Bend
- Marais Temps Clair
- Marion Bottoms
- Montrose
- Nishnabotna
- Nodaway Valley
- Otter Slough
- Perry (Ralph and Martha)
- Platte Falls
- Plowboy Bend
- Rose Pond
- Rush Bottoms
- Schell-Osage
- Settle's Ford
- Seven Island
- Swift Ditch Access
- Ted Shanks
- Ten Mile Pond
- Thurnau
- Warbler Woods
- Wolf Creek Bend

Bicycles and Horses on Conservation Areas

Bicycles and electric bicycles (e-bikes) are permitted only on roads open to vehicular traffic, multiuse trails, and service roads designated as such in the online conservation area atlas. Bikes and e-bikes may be prohibited on these paths during spring turkey season and firearms deer season.

Horses and horseback riding are permitted only on trails designated for their use and on roads open to vehicular traffic. For information on the use of bicycles and horses on specific conservation areas, visit mdc.mo.gov/atlas.

ATV Use

With limited exceptions, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on conservation areas. It is illegal for anyone (except landowners and lessees on land they own or lease and certain agricultural workers) to drive ATVs in Missouri's streams and rivers unless the ATV is on a crossing that is part of the highway system. Violators could lose their hunting and trapping privileges.

General Information

Definitions

Antlered Deer: A deer having at least one antler at least 3 inches long.

Antlered Elk: An elk having at least one antler at least 6 inches long.

Atlatl: A rod or narrow board-like device used to launch, through a throwing motion of the arm, a dart 5 to 8 feet in length.

Bow: A device drawn and held by hand and not fastened to a stock nor to any other mechanism that maintains the device in a drawn position. This definition includes longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows.

Chase or Chased: The act of using dogs to follow wildlife or feral swine for the purpose of recreation or dog training, but not for the purpose of catching or taking that wildlife or feral swine.

Crossbow: A device for discharging quarrels or bolts, formed of a bow set crosswise on a stock, usually drawn by means of a mechanism and discharged by release of a trigger.

Days or Dates: All days and dates are inclusive. A day begins or ends at midnight, unless otherwise specified.

Firearm: Pistols, revolvers, and rifles propelling a single projectile at one discharge including those powered by spring, air, or compressed gas, and shotguns not larger than 10 gauge.

Furbearing Animals, Furbearers: Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, mountain lion, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, river otter, spotted skunk, striped skunk, and long-tailed weasel. **Note:** Open seasons exist for all furbearers except mountain lions, spotted skunks, and long-tailed weasels.

Game Birds: American coot, American woodcock, crows, ducks, Eurasian collared-dove, geese, gray partridge, mourning dove, northern bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, sora rail, Virginia rail, white-winged dove, wild turkey, and Wilson's snipe. **Note:** Open seasons exist for all species except gray partridge and ruffed grouse.

Game Mammals: Black bear, deer, elk, groundhog (woodchuck), cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, swamp rabbit, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and furbearers as defined above.

Note: Open seasons exist for all game mammals except jackrabbits, and for all furbearers except mountain lions, spotted skunks, and long-tailed weasels.

Handgun: Any firearm originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s), with a barrel less than 16 inches in length, measured from the face of the bolt or standing breech (excluding any muzzle device not permanently attached to the barrel), and an overall length less than 26 inches as measured between the muzzle of the barrel and the rearmost portion of the firearm (excluding any pistol brace, muzzle device, or other firearm accessory not permanently attached to the firearm). The use of a pistol brace is specifically authorized, and a second hand may be used for support when firing.

Managed Deer Hunt: A prescribed deer hunt conducted on a designated area, which may include conservation areas, state parks, national wildlife refuges, military bases, private land, and city or county properties.

Muzzleloading Firearm: Any firearm capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including any firearm capable of having the powder or propellant loaded from the breech, provided the bullet or projectile(s) is/are capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.

Night-Vision Equipment: Optical devices (i.e., binoculars or scopes) using light-amplifying circuits that are electrical or battery-powered.

Nonresident Landowner: Any nonresident who owns at least 75 acres in one contiguous tract in Missouri, or any member of the immediate household whose legal residence is the same as the nonresident landowner's for at least the last 30 days. See Chapter 20 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for a more detailed definition.

Possessed and Possession: The actual and constructive possession and control of things referred to in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Public Roadway: The right of way which is owned either outright or by easement by any public entity, or which is used by the general public for travel and is also regularly maintained by any public entity.

Pursue or Pursued: The act of trying to find, seek, or search for wildlife or feral swine for the purpose of taking wildlife or feral swine.

Resident Landowner: Any Missouri resident who owns at least 5 contiguous acres, and his or her immediate household members whose legal residence is the same as the landowner for at least the past 30 days. Ownership of at least 20 contiguous acres is required for resident landowner privileges to hunt black bears, deer, elk, and turkeys. See Chapter 20 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for a more detailed definition.

Sell: To offer for sale or to exchange for compensation in any material form.

Take or Taking: Killing, trapping, snaring, netting, or capturing any wildlife or feral swine in any manner; also refers to pursuing, molesting, hunting, wounding; or the placing, setting, or use of any device in an attempt to take; and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or attempting to take any wildlife or feral swine.

Don't Trash Nature

Littering is illegal. It also harms wildlife and destroys the beauty of natural areas. Pack out spent shotgun shells, food wrappers, and other trash, and dispose of it in a proper receptacle. Carry a plastic grocery sack when you go afield so you can pick up litter left behind by less-conscientious users. Let's all pitch in to keep our wild places looking wild.



Hunting

Deer

Archery deer season: Sept. 15–Nov. 13, 2026, and Nov. 25, 2026–Jan. 15, 2027

Firearms deer season:

Early antlerless portion (in select counties): Oct. 9–11, 2026

Early youth portion: Oct. 24–25, 2026

November portion: Nov. 14–24, 2026

Late youth portion: Nov. 27–29, 2026

Late antlerless portion (in select counties): Dec. 5–13, 2026

Alternative methods portion: Dec. 26, 2026–Jan. 5, 2027

Additional regulations will be announced in the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available in July at permit vendors, Conservation Department offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

Managed Deer Hunts

Missouri has many managed deer hunts. Some are held exclusively for youth and people with disabilities. Hunters are selected by random drawing for available hunting slots. See the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet or mdc.mo.gov for details.

For your safety, you are urged to wear hunter orange whenever you are hunting.

To comply with regulations, however, you must wear hunter orange if:

- You are hunting any species of game during firearms deer season (all portions). Some exceptions are allowed. See below.
- You are hunting on an area that is having a managed firearms deer hunt.
- You are serving as a mentor to another hunter during firearms deer season or on an area that is having a managed firearms deer hunt.
- You are hunting elk or accompanying an elk hunter during the firearms portion of elk season.
- You are hunting black bears or accompanying a bear hunter during black bear season.

To satisfy this rule, you must wear both a hunter-orange hat and a hunter-orange shirt, vest, or coat. The hunter-orange color must be plainly visible from all sides. Camouflage orange does not satisfy this rule.

You don't have to wear hunter orange during firearms deer season if:

- You are hunting migratory game birds.
- You are archery hunting within municipal boundaries where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.
- You are hunting on federal or state land where deer hunting is restricted to archery methods.
- You are archery or small game hunting in a closed county during the antlerless portions.
- You are hunting on an archery permit during the alternative methods portion of firearms deer season.
- You are hunting small game or furbearers during the alternative methods portion.

Elk

Elk season dates, quotas, and rules are announced annually in the *Elk Hunting Digest*, which is available in May at mdc.mo.gov.

Black Bear

Black bear season dates, quotas, and rules are announced annually in the *Black Bear Hunting Digest*, which is available in May at mdc.mo.gov.

Furbearers

Coyote Taken With Hunting Permit

Season: All year, except coyotes may not be hunted during daylight hours from April 1–19, 2026. During spring turkey season, coyotes may be taken only during legal spring turkey hunting hours, using only methods allowed for turkey hunting, and hunters must have an unfilled spring turkey hunting permit and either a Resident Small Game Hunting Permit or a Nonresident Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Permit. See the *Elk Hunting Digest*, available online in May, and the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available in July, for additional limitations during firearms elk season and firearms deer season.

Badger, Gray Fox, and Red Fox: Nov. 15, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027

Bobcat: Nov. 15, 2026–Feb. 28, 2027

Opossum, Raccoon, and Striped Skunk: Aug. 1–Oct. 15, 2026, and Nov. 15, 2026–Feb. 28, 2027

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Note: The pelts of bobcats taken by hunting and trapping must be delivered to an agent of the Conservation Department for registration or tagging. See Page 20. After pelts are tagged, they can be possessed by the taker throughout the year.

Bullfrog and Green Frog

Season: June 30 at sunset–Oct. 31, 2026

For sunset time on June 30, see note on Page 23.

Daily bag limit: 8

Only the daily limit may be possessed on waters and banks of waters being hunted.

Possession bag limit: 16

Methods: .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, bow, crossbow, atlatl, or by hand or hand net.

Crows

Season: Nov. 1, 2026–March 3, 2027

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Groundhog

Season: May 11–Dec. 15, 2026

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Note: Groundhog pelts can be possessed and sold throughout the year. See regulations on using cage-type traps in the box below.

Rabbits

Jackrabbits are protected at all times and may not be hunted or trapped. Cottontail and swamp rabbits may be hunted according to the following:

Season: Oct. 1, 2026–Feb. 15, 2027

Shooting hours: Sunrise to sunset

Daily bag limit: 6 (only 2 may be swamp rabbits)

Possession bag limit: 12 (only 4 may be swamp rabbits)

See regulations on using cage-type traps in the box below.

Squirrels

Season: May 23, 2026–Feb. 15, 2027

Daily bag limit: 10

Possession bag limit: 20

See box below for regulations on using cage-type traps.

Use of Cage-Type Traps

In addition to prescribed hunting methods, you may take groundhogs, squirrels, and rabbits with a cage-type trap at any hour during that species' open hunting season if you possess a hunting permit.

The cage-type trap must:

- Be labeled with your full name and address, or Conservation Number;
- Be attended daily; and
- Have an opening 144 square inches or smaller.

Pheasant

Only male pheasants may be taken. A foot or fully feathered head must be left attached to pheasants during transportation and storage.

Youth-only season: Oct. 24–25, 2026

Daily bag limit: 2 male pheasants

Possession bag limit: 4 male pheasants

Open to hunters age 6 through 15. Youth hunters who are not hunter-education certified must hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed mentor; however, the mentor may not hunt pheasants. See mentor requirements on Page 5.

Regular season: Nov. 1, 2026–Jan. 15, 2027

Daily bag limit: 2 male pheasants

Possession bag limit: 4 male pheasants

Quail

Youth-only season: Oct. 24–25, 2026

Daily bag limit: 8

Possession bag limit: 16

Open to hunters age 6 through 15. Youth hunters who are not hunter-education certified must hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed mentor; however, the mentor may not hunt quail. See mentor requirements on Page 5.

Regular season: Nov. 1, 2026–Jan. 15, 2027

Daily bag limit: 8

Possession bag limit: 16

Migratory Birds and Waterfowl

Dove, rail, snipe, teal, woodcock, duck, coot, and goose season dates and regulations will be announced in the *Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest*, which is available in July at permit vendors, Conservation Department offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

Turkey

Youth spring turkey season: April 11–12, 2026 (for ages 6 through 15 only)

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Spring turkey season: April 20–May 10, 2026

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. on public land; 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset on private land.

For a complete listing of spring turkey hunting regulations, including season limits, pick up a copy of the *Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, which is available in March at permit vendors, Conservation Department offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

Fall turkey season is composed of two portions:

Archery portion (statewide): Sept. 15–Nov. 13, 2026, and Nov. 25, 2026–Jan. 15, 2027

Firearms portion (open counties): Oct. 1–31, 2026

For a complete listing of fall turkey hunting regulations, including season limits, pick up a copy of the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulation and Information* booklet, which is available in July at permit vendors, Conservation Department offices, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

Trapping

Trapping Seasons

Badger, Gray Fox, and Red Fox: Nov. 15, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Bobcat, Coyote, Mink, Muskrat, and River Otter: Nov. 15, 2026–Feb. 28, 2027

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Bobcat and otter pelts must be registered or tagged.

See “General Provisions” on this page.

Opossum, Raccoon, and Striped Skunk: Aug. 1–Oct. 15, 2026, and Nov. 15, 2026–Feb. 28, 2027

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

From Aug. 1–Oct. 15, only foot-enclosing traps and cage-type traps may be used.

Beaver and Nutria: Nov. 15, 2026–March 31, 2027

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Rabbit season: Nov. 15, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027

Daily bag limit: 6

Possession bag limit: 12

Daily limit includes no more than 2 swamp rabbits; possession limit includes no more than 4 swamp rabbits. Carcasses may not be sold. Jackrabbits may not be taken at any time. Also see hunting regulations on Page 19.

Mountain lions, spotted skunks, and weasels may **not** be taken.

Special Trapping Season for Private Lands Only

Coyote, Opossum, Raccoon, and Striped Skunk: March 1–April 14, 2026

Daily bag limit: Any number

Possession bag limit: Any number

Traps may be set only on private lands during this season. Only foot-hold traps, foot-enclosing traps, and cage-type traps may be used.



General Provisions

- The homes, nests, or dens of furbearers may not be molested or destroyed.
- No person shall accept payment for furbearers taken by another.
- Wildlife held in traps, snares, or cable restraint devices may be killed or removed only by the user.
- Bobcats and otters or their pelts must be delivered to an agent of the Conservation Department for registration or tagging before selling, transferring, tanning, or mounting by April 10. Tagged bobcats, otters, or their pelts may be possessed by the taker throughout the year and may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, tanners, or fur dealers. It is illegal to purchase or sell untagged bobcats, otters, or their pelts. **Tagging tip:** To make it easier to tag a pelt without damaging it, put a stick or pencil through the upper lip and eye socket before freezing the skin. The tag can be easily placed in those holes when the pelt is registered.
- Hunters and trappers with valid permits that allow the taking of furbearers may possess, transport, and sell furs throughout the year. **Note:** Only pelts taken by the permit holder may be possessed.
- Restrictions on possession do not apply to tanned pelts, mounted specimens, or manufactured products.
- Skinned carcasses of legally taken furbearers may be sold throughout the year.

Traps:

- May be placed and set at 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the applicable trapping season and must be removed by midnight on the last day of the trapping season.
- Must have smooth or rubber jaws only, and may include foot-hold, Conibear® or other killing-type, foot-enclosing-type, cage-type, colony traps with openings no greater than 6 inches in height and 6 inches wide, snares, and cable restraint devices. You may not use snares in a dry-land set or pitfalls, deadfalls, or nets.
- Must be plainly labeled on durable material with the user's full name and address, or Conservation Number. Wildlife must be removed or released from traps daily, except for colony and killing-type traps set underwater or drowning sets, which must be checked every 48 hours.
- May not be set in paths made or used by people or domestic animals. Killing-type traps may not be set along public roadways, except underwater in permanent waters. Within communities having 10,000 or more inhabitants, only cage-type or foot-enclosing-type traps may be set within 150 feet of any residence or occupied building.
- May be used in conjunction with electronic calls.



Killer or Conibear®-type traps:

- With a jaw spread greater than 5 inches may be set underwater, but not in any dry-land set.
- With a jaw spread not greater than 8 inches may be set 6 feet or more above ground-level in buildings.
- Having no food, scent, or visual lure placed within 1 foot of the trap may be partially exposed above water as long as the trap's hinges are fully submerged.

Snares must:

- Be set in water and have the loop at least half submerged.
- Have a loop 15 inches or less in diameter when set.
- Have a stop device that prevents the snare from closing to less than 2 1/2 inches in diameter.
- Be made with cable that is between 5/64 inch and 1/8 inch in diameter.
- Have a mechanical lock and anchor swivel.

Drowning sets must:

- Be constructed of a solid fiber or steel rod that is anchored at each end.
- Have a drowning lock attached to the trap or snare that allows it to slide only one way.
- Be set in water at a depth sufficient for drowning.

A Special-Use Permit is required to trap on conservation areas.

Trapping with dog-proof-style and other traps is allowed on many conservation areas. A special use permit is required. These must be applied for at least 30 days before trapping begins by contacting the area manager at the nearest regional office (see Page 2).

Cable Restraint Devices

When used correctly, cable restraint devices hold animals alive and allow trappers to release non-target animals unharmed. The devices can be used to take furbearers during the seasons specified on Page 20.

Cable restraint devices must:

- Be made of stranded steel cable, not greater than 5 feet long (not including extension), with a diameter of not less than 5/64 inch, and equipped with a commercially manufactured breakaway rated at 350 pounds or less, a relaxing-type lock, a stop device that prevents it from closing to less than 2 1/2 inches in diameter, and an anchor swivel.
Note: Compression-type chokes and other mechanically powered springs are prohibited.
- Have a loop size of 12 inches diameter or smaller when set.
- Have the bottom of the cable loop set at least 6 inches or greater above the ground.
- Be anchored solidly or staked in a location not allowing entanglement.
- Be checked daily.

Cable restraint devices must NOT be:

- Capable of extending to within 12 inches of a fence.
- Set using a drag.
- Set with a kill-pole.
- Used within 150 feet of any dwelling or driveway leading to a dwelling.

Note: Coyotes and foxes may not be possessed alive without a Resident Commercial Live Coyote and Fox Trapping Permit. Additional rules apply. See 3 CSR 10-10.788 and 3 CSR 10-10.789 in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Feral Swine

Feral swine are highly destructive and prolific pests. They cause significant damage to wildlife habitat, compete with native wildlife for food, prey upon native wildlife, destroy nests of birds such as turkeys, degrade natural areas and agricultural fields, pollute ponds and streams, and spread diseases to livestock, people, and pets. Feral swine must be eliminated in Missouri.

Report Feral Swine

- Report feral swine sightings and damage to 573-522-4115, ext. 3296.
- Releasing swine into the wild is illegal. If you see someone releasing swine, report violators to your local conservation agent.
- During deer and turkey seasons, opportunistic take of feral swine by hunters with an unfilled deer or turkey hunting permit is allowed on lands owned, leased, or managed by the Conservation Department. Outside of deer and turkey seasons, the taking of feral swine is prohibited on lands owned, leased, or managed by the Conservation Department.

The Conservation Department along with about 16 other agencies and organizations make up the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership. The Partnership is working with private landowners to eliminate feral swine from Missouri. Swine are social animals that travel in groups called sounders. Shooting one or two swine scatters the sounder and makes trapping efforts aimed at catching the entire group at once more difficult. With their high reproductive rate, removing only one or two swine does not help to reduce populations. Anyone who observes a feral swine or damage caused by feral swine should report it to the Conservation Department rather than shooting the animal.



Feral swine



Feral swine tracks are distinguished from deer tracks by the rounded or blunt tips of the toes. The toes of a swine track on a firm surface tend to be more splayed than a deer track. A swine track also appears rounded or square; deer tracks appear heart-shaped and have more sharply pointed toes. The presence of dew claw marks with feral swine or white-tailed deer tracks is not an indicator of sex as is commonly thought. Dew claw marks simply mean that the animal was running or stepping on a soft surface.

Sunrise and Sunset Times

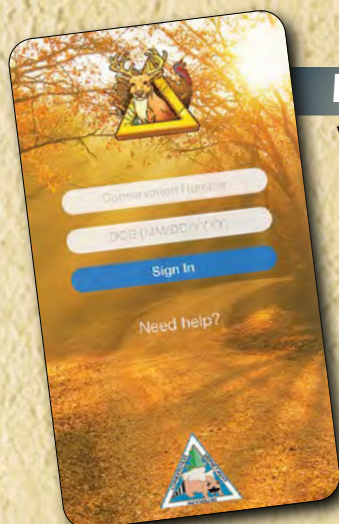
DAVID STONIER

DAY	March 2026		April 2026		May 2026		Sept. 2026		Oct. 2026		Nov. 2026		Dec. 2026		Jan. 2027		Feb. 2027	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:41	6:02	6:53	7:32	6:11	8:01	6:38	7:39	7:05	6:51	6:36	5:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58	7:14	5:31
2	6:39	6:03	6:52	7:33	6:10	8:02	6:39	7:37	7:06	6:50	6:37	5:07	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59	7:13	5:32
3	6:38	6:04	6:50	7:34	6:09	8:03	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:48	6:38	5:06	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00	7:13	5:33
4	6:36	6:05	6:49	7:35	6:08	8:04	6:41	7:34	7:07	6:47	6:39	5:05	7:10	4:47	7:27	5:01	7:12	5:34
5	6:35	6:06	6:47	7:36	6:07	8:05	6:42	7:32	7:08	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:02	7:11	5:35
6	6:33	6:07	6:46	7:37	6:06	8:05	6:43	7:31	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03	7:10	5:36
7	6:32	6:08	6:44	7:38	6:05	8:06	6:43	7:29	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04	7:09	5:38
8	7:30	7:09	6:43	7:39	6:04	8:07	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05	7:08	5:39
9	7:29	7:10	6:41	7:40	6:03	8:08	6:45	7:26	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:00	7:15	4:47	7:26	5:05	7:06	5:40
10	7:27	7:11	6:40	7:41	6:02	8:09	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06	7:05	5:41
11	7:26	7:12	6:38	7:42	6:01	8:10	6:47	7:23	7:14	6:36	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07	7:04	5:42
12	7:24	7:13	6:37	7:43	6:00	8:11	6:48	7:21	7:15	6:35	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08	7:03	5:43
13	7:23	7:14	6:35	7:44	5:59	8:12	6:49	7:20	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09	7:02	5:44
14	7:21	7:15	6:34	7:45	5:58	8:13	6:50	7:18	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:48	7:25	5:11	7:01	5:45
15	7:20	7:16	6:32	7:46	5:57	8:14	6:50	7:17	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12	7:00	5:47
16	7:18	7:17	6:31	7:46	5:56	8:15	6:51	7:15	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:13	6:58	5:48
17	7:17	7:18	6:30	7:47	5:55	8:15	6:52	7:13	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:14	6:57	5:49
18	7:15	7:19	6:28	7:48	5:54	8:16	6:53	7:12	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15	6:56	5:50
19	7:14	7:20	6:27	7:49	5:54	8:17	6:54	7:10	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16	6:55	5:51
20	7:12	7:21	6:25	7:50	5:53	8:18	6:55	7:09	7:23	6:23	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:17	6:53	5:52
21	7:10	7:22	6:24	7:51	5:52	8:19	6:56	7:07	7:24	6:22	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:18	6:52	5:53
22	7:09	7:23	6:23	7:52	5:52	8:20	6:57	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:22	5:19	6:51	5:54
23	7:07	7:24	6:21	7:53	5:51	8:21	6:57	7:04	7:26	6:19	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20	6:49	5:55
24	7:06	7:25	6:20	7:54	5:50	8:21	6:58	7:02	7:27	6:18	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:21	6:48	5:56
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26	7:03	7:27	6:18	7:56	5:49	8:23	7:00	6:59	7:29	6:16	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24	6:45	5:58
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31	6:55	7:31			5:47	8:27			7:34	6:10			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:29		

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. For example, St. Louis is 106 miles east: subtract 8 minutes; Kansas City is 133 miles west: add 10 minutes. Sunrise and sunset from March 8 to May 31 and Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 have been converted to daylight saving time. **Note:** The season for bullfrogs and green frogs begins June 30, 2026, at sunset, which is 8:37 p.m. daylight saving time in Jefferson City. Official sunrise and sunset times for any location can be found at <https://aa.usno.navy.mil/data>.



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